THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) As per census, 2001 there are 3,72,89,729 widows and 23,42,930 divorcee/separated women in the country. Under NREGA, all rural households including single women are entitled to guaranteed 100 days employment. Under Indira Gandhi National Social Assistance Programme, all persons who are 65 years of age or older and belong to BPL category are eligible for a pension of Rs. 200/- per month from Government of India. The Scheme was expended in February, 2009 to include widows in the age group of 40-64. The Government also runs the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP) for skill upgradation and generation of livelihood options for assetless and marginalized women. Besides, the Government is implementing two shelter based schemes, namely, Swadhar and Short Stay Homes which provide emergency outreach services to women in difficult circumstances who do not have societal/family support of independent means of income.

Pawning of wives and daughters in Bundelkhand

1978. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the media reports of poor people and farmers of drought hit Bundelkhand and other parts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh pawning their wives and daughters on stamp paper have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry into such reports;

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(d) the remedial measures Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Women (NCW) has constituted an inquiry committee to inquire into such incidents of Bundelkhand region. The Committee has submitted its preliminary report. Since the root cause of such social evils is poverty, the Government has advised Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) to focus their activities in the region so that gainful economic employment opportunities can be created. Besides, the Government has advised Ministry of Panchayati Raj and NCW to organise sensitisation programmes for the members of Panchayati Raj institutions of the region and disseminate information in respect of the schemes/programmes of the Central and State Governments. The Government of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have also been advised to taken action for mitigating hardships and reducing poverty.

Domestic violence against women

1979. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey about the continuation of domestic violence including sexual violence against women, despite the law prohibiting such violence; and

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken or proposed to be taken to prevent such violence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) As per National Family Health Survey III (2007) data, approximately 35.4% of women in the age-group of 15-49 and approximately 40% of women in case of ever married women, have experienced physical or sexual violence. 6.7% of all women have experienced both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence. Further, the data suggests that both physical and sexual forms of domestic violence against women are higher in rural as compared to urban areas.

(b) The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is a civil law intended to fill the gaps in existing criminal legal framework. This law aims to provide various types of reliefs to those women, who experience violence in the domestic environment. This law has been in force for about 3 years.

Funds for child welfare schemes

1980. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released and spent for child welfare schemes, State-wise especially in Maharashtra;

(b) the details thereof, rural and urban area-wise; and

(c) the benefits reached to poor people like minorities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) The funds released to States/UTs alongwith the details of benefits provided under child welfare schemes are available on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development *i.e.*, *www.wcd.nic.in.* This information is also available in the Annual Reports of this Ministry which are available in the Library of the Rajya Sabha. All the schemes of this Ministry cater to all the communities.

Anganwadi workers and helpers

1981. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Anganwadi workers and helpers, State-wise;

(b) the amount of remuneration provided to each worker and helper;

(c) whether Government considers hike in their remuneration, in view of the escalating cost of living;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and